

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0734
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 03815

EMBASSY LONDON PLEASE PASS TO SECDEF PARTY FOR CAPT HANSON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: NATO, MNUC, NPG
SUBJECT: NPG: THE MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE

REF: USNATO 3734 (DTG 121801Z APR 78)

.
1. THE ERW DECISION, SALT AND RELATED ISSUES WILL ENSURE
A HIGH LEVEL OF PRESS AND PUBLIC ATTENTION AT THE FORTH-
COMING NPG MINISTERIAL. WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT AT THE
MEETING TO GIVE PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE MINISTERIAL
COMMUNIQUE, WHICH WILL BE THE FIRST COLLECTIVE STATEMENT
OUT OF NATO SINCE THE APRIL 7 ANNOUNCEMENT BY SYG LUNS
ON THE ERW DECISION.

2. WE SUGGEST THE US SHOULD AIM IN PARTICULAR TO
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ACHIEVE AN NPG COMMUNIQUE WHICH:

. - MAKES CLEAR NATO'S DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN AND
ENHANCE A STRONG DEFENSE POSTURE, INCLUDING FULLY EFFEC-
TIVE NUCLEAR FORCES.

. - TREATS ERW IN THE CONTEXT OF OVERALL TNF MODERNIZA-

TION.

. - CONTAINS EXPRESSION OF ALLIED SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT'S ERW DECISION, PARTICULARLY STRESSING THE POINT THAT FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS WOULD BE INFLUENCED BY THE DEGREE OF SOVIET RESTRAINT.

. - GIVES DUE ATTENTION TO NATO ARMS CONTROL OBJECTIVES.

AS CUSTOMARY AT NPG MINISTERIALS, THE COMMUNIQUE IS PREPARED ON THE SPOT, WITHOUT PRIOR STAFFING AMONG ALLIES, IN LIGHT OF ACTUAL MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS. THUS IT IS IMPORTANT THAT SECDEF INTERVENTIONS PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR POINTS THE US WANTS REFLECTED IN THE COMMUNIQUE.

3. WE PROVIDE A RE-DRAFT OF PARAS 2-4 OF THE IS DRAFT COMMUNIQUE (REFTEL), REFLECTING THE POINTS ABOVE AND OTHER TEXTUAL MODIFICATIONS WE BELIEVE DESIRABLE.

QUOTE:

. 2. NPG MEETINGS AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL ARE A PRINCIPAL FORUM IN NATO FOR DISCUSSION OF NUCLEAR DEFENCE AFFAIRS. THE NPG HAS A PEACETIME CONSULTATIVE AND ADVISORY FUNCTION, DEVELOPING POLICY GUIDANCE FOR MILITARY PLANNING, FOR PROCEDURES FOR NUCLEAR CONSULTATION DURING CONFIDENTIAL

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CRISES ON THE POSSIBLE DEFENSIVE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY NATO, AND FOR MODERNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR NATO'S NUCLEAR FORCES AS THEY ARE DICTATED BY CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE GLOBAL STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT. WITH THESE

. MAJOR OBJECTIVES IN MIND, MINISTERS AGAIN RECEIVED AND WELCOMED A COMPREHENSIVE BRIEFING BY THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND ANTICIPATED TRENDS IN THE OVERALL BALANCE OF NUCLEAR FORCES, AND HAD A WIDE RANGING DISCUSSION OF IMPLICATIONS OF THE BALANCE FOR NATO SECURITY. THEY EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN THE CONTINUING EFFECTIVENESS OF THE UNITED STATES STRATEGIC DETERRENT AND NOTED, IN THIS CONTEXT, DEVELOPMENTS IN SALT NEGOTIATIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, MINISTERS ALSO NOTED THE UNINTERRUPTED BUILD-UP OF SOVIET NUCLEAR FORCES OVER THE WHOLE SPECTRUM OF MILITARY MEANS IN SPITE OF RESTRAINT BY NATO, AND THE UNITED STATES IN PARTICULAR, IN THE NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS FIELD. OF SPECIAL CONCERN AGAIN WAS THE SS-20 MIRVED MOBILE INTERMEDIATE RANGE MISSILE, THE DEPLOYMENT OF WHICH SEEMS TO BE ONGOING WITHOUT ANY INTERRUPTION.

. 3. MINISTERS CONCURRED THAT DETERRENCE CONTINUES TO BE THE CENTRAL ALLIANCE OBJECTIVE AND THAT THE NATO TRIAD AND STRATEGY OF FLEXIBILITY IN RESPONSE SHALL BE MAINTAINED AND ENHANCED IN LIGHT OF EVOLVING CIRCUMSTANCES. AT THE SAME TIME THEY AFFIRMED THAT ARMS CONTROL EFFORTS WILL REMAIN AN IMPORTANT FEATURE OF NATO'S OVERALL SECURITY POLICY AND WILL BE GUIDED BY THE AIM OF ACHIEVING BALANCED AND UNDIMINISHED SECURITY.

. 4. MINISTERS DISCUSSED IN DEPTH SUGGESTIONS FORWARDED BY THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND AN AD HOC WORKING

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USNATO 03815

EMBASSY LONDON PLEASE PASS TO SECDEF PARTY FOR CAPT HANSON

GROUP ON MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PRESENT THEATRE NUCLEAR FORCE POSTURE IN EUROPE. AMONG OTHER SUBJECTS, THEY REVIEWED THE UNITED STATES DECISION ON ENHANCED REDUCED/RADIATION BLAST WARHEADS FOR LANCE AND 8-INCH ARTILLERY, SUPPORTED THE STEPS UNDERWAY IN THE UNITED STATES TO MODERNIZE THESE SYSTEMS, AND AFFIRMED THAT THE OPTION OF INTRODUCING REDUCED BLAST/ENHANCED RADIATION CAPABILITY IN NATO'S THEATER NUCLEAR FORCES WOULD BE INFLUENCED BY THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE SOVIET UNION SHOWS RESTRAINT IN ITS CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR

ARMS PROGRAMS AND FORCE DEPLOYMENTS AFFECTING THE
SECURITY OF NATO. THEY DISCUSSED AS WELL A WIDE RANGE OF
OTHER ELEMENTS OF THEATER NUCLEAR FORCE MODERNIZATION
POLICY AND AGREED TO CONTINUE CLOSE AND DETAILED CONSULTA-
TIONS IN THIS FIELD. END QUOTE. BENNETT
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